



Interim Forest Management Plan

Property Identifiers

Property Name and Designation

Kissick Swamp Wildlife and Natural Area

County: **Sawyer**

Property Acreage: **933**

Forestry Property Code: 5824

Master Plan Date: 1983

Part 1: Property Assessment

General Property Description

- **Landscape and regional context**

Kissick Swamp State Wildlife Area is located within the North Central Forest Ecological Landscape, and is associated with the Hayward Moraines LTA (212Xf04). This property is not within any Important Bird Areas or Conservation Opportunity Areas.

This property is within a local landscape that is dominated by forest cover, with some agriculture present to the east of the area. Northern hardwood forest is dominant, made up of sugar maple, basswood, and red maple, with some stands containing scattered hemlock, yellow birch, and/or white pine pockets. The aspen-birch forest type is also abundant, and oak stands are fairly common. Forested and non-forested wetland communities are found throughout the area, with swamp conifer stands of tamarack and black spruce the most common of the forested types. These properties are adjacent to smaller private parcels of land ownerships, the Washburn County Forest, and private forest industry.

History of land use and past management

Kissick Swamp Wildlife Area was acquired in 1946-1948 as a deer yard. At the time there was a large amount of white cedar reproduction on the property. Several additional purchases were made in 1951. The property was logged in the 1920's resulting in the uniform conifer cover that dominates the property. There are scattered individual mature mast-producing red and white oaks scattered throughout the property. Some aspen has been harvested over the last 40 years with the last sale made in the early 80's. A 160 acre natural area was created in 1983 to protect the alkaline bog and 10 acre lake. Several springs and seeps drain into the lake from the immediate vicinity. An unnamed stream to the Chippanzie Creek flows out of the area to the northwest.

The property is currently managed for wildlife habitat and is used most frequently for deer, bear, and grouse hunting, trapping, wildlife viewing, and cross country skiing. Cross country skiing takes place on hunter walking trails, but no grooming or winter maintenance is performed on the trails. Hunter walking trails and wildlife openings are maintained for public use and access.



Interim Forest Management Plan

Site Specifics

- **Current forest types, size classes and successional stages**
 - *Aspen (25%) – 203 acres – 15% in the 21-25 year age class, 20% in the 26-30 year age class, 31% in the 31-35 year age class, 34% in the 36-40 year age class
 - *Fir/Spruce (43%) – 353 acres – all in the 76 –80 year age class
 - *Northern Hardwoods (3%) – 25 acres unknown age class
 - *Black Spruce (20%) – 167 acres all in the 71-75 year age class
 - *Swamp Hardwoods (1%) 5 acres in the 76-80 year age class
- **State Natural Area designations**

The 137 acre Kissick Alkaline Bog Natural Area lies within the property boundary
- **High Conservation Value Forests (HCVF) or other resources/natural community types limited in the landscape**

The alkaline bog within the Natural Area contains an especially diverse and high quality assemblage of plants.
- **Biotic Inventory status**

Not yet completed or scheduled.
- **Deferral/consultation area designations.**

No D/C sites are within the properties.
- **Rare species**

Orchids? Several species of rare plants are known to occur on the property.
- **Invasive species**

Spotted Knapweed and non-native honeysuckle is present in nearby areas.
- **Soils (From LTA descriptions)**

The characteristic landform pattern is rolling collapsed moraine with swamps common. Soils are predominantly well drained sandy loam over acid loamy sand till or outwash.

Cultural and Recreational Considerations

- **Cultural and archeological sites (including tribal sites)**

There are no historical or archeological sites listed for these properties on the Archaeological Sites Inventory.



Interim Forest Management Plan

Part 2: IFMP Components

Management Objectives

Aspen

The primary objective is to regenerate this type using even-age management methods to the extent possible to benefit game and non-game wildlife. Age class diversity will be maintained and green tree retention practices will be observed as appropriate. Special focus will be given to retaining conifer species and oak wherever possible to improve stand diversity, cover, and mast production for wildlife. Efforts will be made to allow succession to northern hardwoods or conifer cover within a 150' riparian zone of the unnamed stream.

Fir/Spruce/Tamarack/Black Spruce

These stands will be managed to promote conifer cover and diversity throughout the property through even-aged management.

Northern Hardwoods

Regenerate stands utilizing uneven-aged or even-aged management techniques to increase wildlife values, nesting and cavity trees, and species diversity. Timber production will be a secondary value.

Swamp Hardwoods

Regenerate stand using uneven-aged or management techniques to increase wildlife values, nesting and cavity trees, and species diversity. Timber production will be a secondary value.

Property Prescriptions The DNR Silvicultural Handbook and this IFMP will be the primary guiding documents resource managers will utilize to determine objectives and prescriptions for individual stands within the property. A wide host of additional resources including, but not limited to, the Wisconsin Wildlife Action Plan, Wisconsin Best Management Practices for Water Quality, and the Wisconsin Natural Heritage Inventory, Historical and Archeological Inventory will be utilized on a regular basis to plan for the management of individual stands, as well as the property as a whole. The prescriptions listed below are guidance for future management, but will not preclude utilization of other appropriate commonly accepted forestry management prescriptions that will enhance the goals and objectives for this property.

Aspen

Aspen stands will primarily be harvested through even-aged coppice regeneration cuts. Larger stands will be divided to increase age class diversity and edge cover. Green tree retention will be practiced in this stands while also focusing on snag and den/cavity tree retention. Concentrate retention near and between ephemeral ponds. Retain all large pine and oak, and protect areas of advanced regeneration of these species. Routinely, all non-merchantable trees greater than 1" will be felled to encourage aspen regeneration. A 150' riparian management zone will be created along the unnamed stream to succeed to conifer or northern hardwoods to discourage beaver activity and protect the watershed.

Northern Hardwoods

Northern hardwood stands will generally be managed by uneven-aged selection (single tree or group selection) harvests to encourage long term multi-aged diversity. Gaps will be created to encourage age class diversity and edge cover. Promote oak, yellow birch, and hemlock where opportunities exist. Snags, cavity trees, and other trees that have special value to wildlife will be retained.

Swamp Hardwoods Management of swamp hardwood stands will be implemented according to a variety of methods as described in the DNR Silvicultural Handbook, with the primary goal being to enhance wildlife habitat. Focus will be given to retaining den/cavity trees and other individual trees of high value to wildlife. Harvest will take place under frozen ground conditions only.

Fir/Spruce/Tamarack/Black Spruce

Even-aged management techniques will be used to manage these stands under frozen ground conditions only. These stands are extremely valuable to the property due to increased diversity and cover for wildlife, and the wide range of understory shrubs and plants found here.

Approvals:



Interim Forest Management Plan

Regional Ecologist Date

Forester Date

Property Manager Date

Area/Team Supervisor Date